

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-14, 17-23, 26-33, 36-45 are pending, with claims 1, 20 and 39 being independent. Claim 42 is cancelled. The features recited in claim 42 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 20 and 39.

Claims 2, 3, 21, and 23 depend on later amended claims 44 and 45, which depend on claims 1 and 20 respectively, and therefore are not believed to need modification. As such, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawn of the objection

Claims 1-3, 7-14, 17-23, 26-33, 36-45 are rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application US 2003/0233418 (Goldman). Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn because Goldman fails to describe or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1, 20, and 39, as amended. For instance, Goldman fails to describe or suggest (1) associating a score with each of the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the score indicating a strength of the action in supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user; (2) aggregating the associated scores of detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity; (3) comparing the aggregated score with a threshold score; and (4) determining that the entity is associated with the user when the aggregated score exceeds the threshold score; as recited in independent claims, 1, 20 and 39.

Goldman is directed to filtering incoming electronic messages based on categorizing senders' addresses as authorized, unauthorized or unconfirmed. Goldman describes analyzing electronic messages in a subscriber's outbox and other folders, identifying senders' addresses that the subscriber previously corresponded, and categorizing these senders as authorized or unauthorized depending on the actions the user took with respect to the messages. See, Goldman [0094]. However, Goldman does not describe or suggest determining whether the sender is authorized or unauthorized by (1) associating a score with each of the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the score indicating a strength of the action in supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user; (2) aggregating the associated scores of detected actions performed by the user on the received one

or more e-mails from the entity; (3) comparing the aggregated score with a threshold score; and (4) determining that the entity is associated with the user when the aggregated score exceeds the threshold score; as recited in independent claim 1, 20 and 39.

Therefore, independent claim 1 as well as claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable Goldman for at least the reasons above. Similarly, independent claims 20 and 39, as well as the claims that depend from them, recite features similar to independent claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. The Director also is hereby authorized to apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

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Respectfully submitted,

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